

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the communications system provides an integrated management solution.

3. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22,
~~wherein the host NIC is coupled to a network, and~~
wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC ~~comprises~~ initially provides a sole connection to the network for the manager management device.

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC comprises a standard NIC.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC comprises a universal management port (UMP).

6. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC comprises an Ethernet connection port.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC comprises one or more filters and a NIC processor.

8. (Original) The system according to claim 7,
wherein the NIC processor is coupled to a NIC MAC and is coupled to the one or more
filters,

wherein the one or more filters are coupled to the NIC MAC, and
wherein the NIC MAC is coupled to a network.

9. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 7,
wherein the NIC processor is coupled to a MAC, and
wherein the MAC is coupled to the manager ~~management device~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9, wherein the manager
~~management device~~ configures the one or more filters.

11. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 9,
wherein the ~~management device~~ manager sends one or more commands to the NIC
processor, and

wherein the NIC processor configures the one or more filters based upon the one or more
commands.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein the NIC processor
responds to a command with a corresponding response to the manager ~~management device~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC
stores only a latest response to a received and expected command.

14. (Original) The system according to claim 12, wherein the command and the
corresponding response each comprise an identical sequence number.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 12, wherein the manager

~~management device~~ stores a particular command until a corresponding response has been received.

16. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein the manager ~~management device~~ comprises a management processor and a MAC, the management processor being coupled to the MAC, the MAC being coupled to the ~~host~~ first NIC.

17. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 16, wherein the MAC of the manager ~~management device~~ is coupled to a MAC of the ~~host~~ first NIC.

18. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, wherein management traffic, commands and responses are passed between the ~~host~~ first NIC and the manager ~~management device~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22, ~~further~~ comprising:
a plurality of additional host NICs, each additional host NIC being coupled to the manager ~~management device~~,

wherein if the ~~host NIC fails~~ first NIC and the second NIC fail, then the manager ~~management device~~ selects a host NIC from the plurality of additional host NICs to exclusively provide access to and from the network for the manager ~~management device~~.

20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim + 22,
wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC and the manager ~~management device~~ are part of a server system,

wherein the server system comprises ~~the a~~ host, system controls and system sensors,
wherein the ~~host~~ first NIC and the manager ~~management device~~ are coupled to the host,
and

wherein the manager ~~management device~~ is coupled to the system controls and the system sensors.

21. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein the manager management device comprises an intelligent management device.

22. (Currently Amended) A communications system, comprising:
a first host network interface card (NIC) coupled to a network;
a second host NIC coupled to the network; and
a manager coupled to the first NIC and the second NIC, the manager initially being in two-way communications with the network via the first NIC,
wherein, if the first NIC fails, then the manager switches from the first NIC to the second NIC and is in two-way communications with the network via the second NIC,
wherein, if the first NIC operates normally, network traffic does not pass through the first NIC to the manager unless the network traffic is management traffic, and
wherein, if the first NIC fails, the network traffic does not pass through the second NIC to the manager unless the network traffic is management traffic.

23. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the manager is initially in two-way communications with the network exclusively through the first NIC.

24. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein, if the first NIC fails, then the manager switches from the first NIC to the second NIC and is in two-way communications with the network exclusively through the second NIC.

25. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the first NIC, the second NIC and the manager are part of a server system that is coupled to the network.

26. (Original) The system according to claim 22,
wherein the first NIC comprises a first filter,
wherein the second NIC comprises a second filter, and

wherein the first filter and the second filter are configurable by the manager.

27. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 22, ~~further~~ comprising:
system controls coupled to the manager; and
system sensors coupled to the manager.

28. (Original) The system according to claim 27, wherein the manager monitors the system sensors and reports system alerts over the network.

29. (Original) The system according to claim 27, wherein the manager sets system controls in response to commands received over the network.

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 22, ~~further~~ comprising:
a management console coupled to the network,
wherein the management console receives user input and sends the user input to the manager over the network,
wherein the manager responds to the user input with a response and sends the response to the management console over the network, and
wherein the response is seamlessly output at the management console.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the management console seamlessly provides remote management of the manager.

32. (Original) The system according to claim 22,
wherein the first NIC, the second NIC and the manager are part of a server system,
wherein the server system comprises a host, and
wherein the first NIC, the second NIC and the manager are each coupled to the host via a system interconnect.

33. (Original) The system according to claim 32, wherein the server system comprises a peripheral device that is coupled to the system interconnect.

34. (Original) The system according to claim 32, wherein the server system comprises one or more central processors and a memory, the one or more central processors and the memory are each coupled to the system interconnect.

35. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 32,
wherein the first NIC is coupled to the network via the a first switch, and
wherein the second NIC is coupled to the network via a second switch.

36. (Original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the manager comprises an intelligent management device.

Claims 37-50 (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) A method of remote management over a network, comprising:

accessing the network via a plurality of host network interface cards (NICs) of a local server system;

communicating between a local manager of the local server system and a remote manager over the network through a host NIC selected by the local manager, the selected host NIC being one of the plurality of host NICs, the local manager not having a dedicated management NIC coupled to the network, any of the plurality of host NICs being selectable by the local manager;

managing the local server system via the local manager; and

responding locally to management commands sent over the network from the remote manager.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 51, ~~further~~ comprising:

sending a response from the local manager to the remote manager.

53. (Original) The method according to claim 52, wherein the sent response comprises graphical information.

54. (Original) The method according to claim 51, wherein the selected NIC provides exclusive access to and from the network for the local manager.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 51, wherein the local manager comprises an intelligent management device.

56. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 51, ~~further~~ comprising:
selecting another host NIC of the plurality of host NICs to provide exclusive access to and from the network for the local manager.